

★★★★ The Robert Maynard Hutchins
===== CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
===== DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

October 12, 1987

Theodore J. Wilson
Chaplain, Lt. Colonel, USAF
320 Lincoln St.
Fairhope, AL 36532

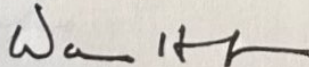
Dear Colonel Wilson:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful response to the CBS "60 Minutes" segment that focused on the class that I teach.

A television program can only do so much, and CBS did it well. But, as you point out, there are other sides to the Vietnam War story. We try to cover as many as we can in the ten weeks of the academic quarter.

Many thanks for writing.

Sincerely,



Walter H. Capps
Acting Director

October 4, 1987

Professor Capps
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA

Dear Professor:

This evening I watched the CBS 60 Minutes report on your class Vietnam 101. I am not naive enough to believe that CBS reported the full unbiased account of your class and the students in it. It is unfortunate that the national media continues to focus on Vietnam Veterans who do not represent the majority of men and women who served in South Vietnam.

I was an Air Force chaplain at Phu Cat Air Base 1968-1969. I still serve my country, my God

my church as a
sergeant in uniform. To
this day I cannot approach
the Vietnam Memorial Wall
in Washington, D.C. - I remember
too well the political
acronym associated with
the wall. I remember too
well a country that allowed
its armed forces in Vietnam
to be defeated not in
battle but on the streets of
our major cities. But that
is not the whole story of
my feelings about Vietnam
almost twenty years after
I went there. I prefer to
think of the thousands of
wives, mothers, and daughters
who continue to bear the
scars of their loss with
dignity and quiet
patriotism. I prefer to think
of the thousands of young
men and women who

ioned from Vietnam,
it away their uniforms
and medals and put these
life back together again in
spite of how they were
affected. Quietly and without
asking for anything they
went to college and to
work, got married and had
families and continue to
live their lives in an
exemplary way. There is
much more to remember
about Vietnam than watching
aging Vietnam Veterans who
still won't shave off
their beards and hang up
their combat fatigues. There
comes a time when sock
cloth and ashes are not
the clothes of the proud
and the living. I can
empathize with their
pain but I cannot condone
their self-flagellation in public.

You dishonor those who
died in battle when you
allow to be forgotten
the "quiet army of
veterans" who live life
one day at a time and
focus their energy on
remembering what is good
about our country. Many
career non-commissioned and
commissioned officers in uniform
today also served in Vietnam.
I didn't see them represented
in your panel of speakers.

I will retire in a couple
of weeks after serving in the
Korean War and the Vietnam
War. I will live in Virginia
close to the Capitol. It is
possible I may be able to face
the memorial wall on my
own. If by chance you are
also there with your students
It will be reassuring to

now that they can leave
the wall with pride and
respect for the thousands
of veterans who live their
memories without the wall.

Sincerely,

Theodore J. Wilson
Chaplain, Lt Colonel, USAF

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